

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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- 1 1. A method for generating a prioritized network site directory, comprising the
2 steps of:
3 (a) generating at least one link to a site on a network;
4 (b) adding the site to a site directory having a set of categories comprising at
5 least one category;
6 (c) categorizing the site into one of the categories of the site directory; and
7 (d) ranking the categorized site in the category.

- 1 2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of adding the site to the site
2 directory further comprises the steps of: comparing the site to pre-existing
3 sites in the site directory; and generating a notification if the site matches one
4 of the pre-existing sites of the site directory.

- 1 3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of categorizing the site into
2 one of the categories of the site directory further comprises the steps of:
3 generating a table of sites, wherein the table of sites comprises at least one
4 pre-existing site ranked in the set of categories of the set directory;
5 determining whether the site exists in the table of sites; and mapping the site
6 to one of the categories of the set of categories if the site exists in the table of
7 sites.

- 1 4. A method as recited in claim 3, wherein the step of categorizing the site into
2 one of the categories of the site directory further comprises the step of
3 searching the site for keywords relating to the categories of the set of
4 categories if the site does not exist in the table of sites.

- 1 5. A method as recited in claim 3, wherein the step of categorizing the site into
2 one of the categories of the site directory further comprises the steps of:

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3 selecting one of the categories into which the site is to be categorized;
4 comparing the selected category to the category to which the site is mapped;
5 and generating a notification if the selected category does not match the
6 category to which the site is mapped.

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2 6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the site is ranked in the category
3 according to at least one of: the number of generated links to the site, the
4 frequency that the site is accessed by selection of the generated links, and
polling.

1 7. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of creating a sub-
2 category into which the site is categorized.

1 8. A method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of assigning a
2 creator identity to the sub-category that includes information about a creator
3 of the sub-category.

1 9. A method as recited in claim 8, further comprising the step of granting the
2 creator of the sub-category at least one of the privileges consisting of:
3 recommending to accept or reject additional sites into and additional sub-
4 categories under the sub-category, receiving information transmittals from
5 users of site in the sub-category, and transmitting information to users of
6 sites in the sub-category.

1 10. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of associating a
2 mode of communication with the category.

1 11. A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for
2 generating a prioritized network site directory, comprising:
3 (a) a code segment that generates at least one link to a site on a network;
4 (b) a code segment that adds the site to a site directory having a set of categories
5 comprising at least one category;

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- 6 (c) a code segment that categorizes the site into one of the categories of the site directory; and
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- 8 (d) a code segment that ranks the categorized site in the category.

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12. A computer program as recited in claim 11, wherein the code segment that adds the site to the site directory further comprises: a code segment that compares the site to pre-existing sites in the site directory; and a code segment that generates a notification if the site matches one of the pre-existing sites of the site directory.

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13. A computer program as recited in claim 11, wherein the code segment that categorizes the site into one of the categories of the site directory further comprises: a code segment that generates a table of sites, wherein the table of sites comprises at least one pre-existing site ranked in the set of categories of the set directory; a code segment that determines whether the site exists in the table of sites; and a code segment that maps the site to one of the categories of the set of categories if the site exists in the table of sites.

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14. A computer program as recited in claim 3, wherein the code segment that categorizes the site into one of the categories of the site directory further comprises a code segment that searches the site for keywords relating to the categories of the set of categories if the site does not exist in the table of sites.

15. A computer program as recited in claim 3, wherein the code segment that categorizes the site into one of the categories of the site directory further comprises: a code segment that selects one of the categories into which the site is to be categorized; a code segment that compares the selected category to the category to which the site is mapped; and a code segment that generates a notification if the selected category does not match the category to which the site is mapped.

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1 16. A computer program as recited in claim 11, wherein the site is ranked in the
2 category according to at least one of: the number of generated links to the
3 site, the frequency that the site is accessed by selection of the generated links,
4 and polling.

1 17. A computer program as recited in claim 11, further comprising a code
2 segment that creates a sub-category into which the site is categorized.

1 18. A computer program as recited in claim 17, further comprising a code
2 segment that assigns a creator identity to the sub-category that includes
3 information about a creator of the sub-category.

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1 19. A computer program as recited in claim 18, further comprising a code
2 segment that grants the creator of the sub-category at least one of the
3 privileges consisting of: recommending to accept or reject additional sites
4 into and additional sub-categories under the sub-category, receiving
5 information transmittals from users of site in the sub-category, and
6 transmitting information to users of sites in the sub-category.

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1 20. A system for generating a prioritized network site directory, comprising:
2 (a) a logic that generates at least one link to a site on a network;
3 (b) a logic that adds the site to a site directory having a set of categories
4 comprising at least one category;
5 (c) a logic that categorizes the site into one of the categories of the site directory;
6 and
7 (d) a logic that ranks the categorized site in the category.

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